
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 368 (File 426, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING A REPORT BY THE HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE OF CONNECTICUT.

SUMMARY:

This bill adds information the Health Information Technology Exchange of Connecticut (HITE-CT) must include in its annual reports to the governor and legislature. HITE-CT is a quasi-public agency designated as the state's lead agency for health information exchange. Current law requires its chief executive officer to annually, from February 1, 2011 until February 1, 2016, report to the governor and the General Assembly on (1) any private or federal funds received during the preceding year and how they were spent, (2) grant recipients and amounts, and (3) the current status of health information technology and exchange in the state. The bill requires the report to also include information on the development of privacy practices and procedures to notify patients about the collection and use of patient health information in the statewide health information exchange.

The bill also specifies that HITE-CT employees are not state employees as defined in the state employee collective bargaining, retirement, or personnel administration laws.

*Senate Amendment "A" adds the provisions regarding HITE-CT employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

HITE-CT EMPLOYEES

Current law allows HITE-CT to employ assistants, agents, and other employees as necessary who are exempt from the classified service and not employees as defined in the collective bargaining law. The bill instead provides that these individuals are not state employees as defined in the state employee collective bargaining, retirement, or

personnel administration laws.

The bill provides that any necessary or appropriate personnel practices and policies the authority establishes on hiring, promotion, compensation, retirement, and collective bargaining do not have to follow the existing state law on state employee retirement or personnel administration, in addition to collective bargaining, as under current law.

By law, HITE-CT is not an employer as defined under the state employee collective bargaining law. The bill also specifies that it is not an appointing authority as defined in the state employee personnel administration law.

BACKGROUND

HITE-CT

HITE-CT is responsible for, among other things, (1) developing a statewide health information exchange to share electronic health information among health care facilities, health care professionals, public and private payors, and patients; (2) providing grants to advance health information technology and exchange in the state; and (3) implementing and periodically revising the state's health information technology plan.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/30/2012)

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 10 Nay 0 (05/03/2012)